

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PRISONERS' DAY, APRIL 17th

DECLARATION

- During de San Sebastian International Conference, April 17th was chosen as the International Political Prisoners' Day. Since then, this day is celebrated every year in the Basque Country and throughout the world.
- The political nature of the prisoners is given by their struggle and their political commitment. Political rebellion and resistance are encouraged by the repression of people and the violation of their rights.
- The resistance, which is totally legitimate, makes the political struggle visible. The political conflict needs a political and democratic solution, which has to be found in terms of dialogue and negotiation, and recognizing the right of self determination of the people.
- To achieve a political solution, the participation of the political prisoners is necessary, and their contribution is essential. The political prisoners must be allowed to debate and make decisions. Their rights must be guaranteed.
- Social and political conflicts, domination of nations and the oppressing logic of money have forced thousands of activists to commit to change this reality. The consequence of which is, usually, prison. We would like to use this opportunity to express our complete solidarity to the political prisoners and to some of the national struggles for freedom, such as Palestine, Kurdistan, Sahara, Colombia, Chile. They are, along with many more, good examples of this harsh reality.
- We denounce that the harassment against political prisoners is based in human rights violations and exceptional laws. To make possible the conflict resolution these exceptional measures have to be revoked.

We would like to remember two rough conflicts that have been solved during the last two decades - South Africa and Northern Ireland. These examples show us that if there is political and democratic will positive results are possible.

- Unfortunately, that does not happen in many other countries. It's not Basque Country's case, either. The Independentist Left has reexamined its strategy. ETA organisation ended armed struggle one year and a half ago. EPPK – the Basque political prisoners' collective- has ratified the political choice made by the Independentist Left and has supported it. The Spanish and French governments, on the contrary, have not

adjusted themselves to the new political situation, since they carry on with their strategy of repression.

- Denying the political nature of the prisoners implies denying the political conflict. The political conflict must be acknowledged, because it is necessary in order to make up for the suffering, the damage and the consequences of the conflict.
- We want to underline that the release of political prisoners facilitates conflict resolution.
- The signatories of this declaration request that all conflicts in the world – Basque Country, Corsica, Palestine, Sahara, ...- are resolved like it is being done in Colombia and Kurdistan.

-We ask all countries to give a chance to a lasting peace and justice

- We ask the different states to allow the conditions that will guarantee the participation of the representatives named by political prisoners.

-We ask all people and social and political agents to push on that direction

-We ask the international community to encourage and support these steps

April 18th, 2013